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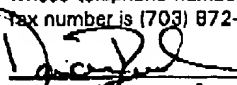
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited via facsimile to The Honorable Commissioner in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attention: Bradley T. King whose telephone number is (703)-308-8346 and fax number is (703) 872-9327 on June 23, 2003.

  
David H. Bonkman, Reg. No. 40,532

6/23/03  
Date

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: James W. Shade et al.  
Serial No.: 09/620,177  
Filed: July 20, 2000  
Confirmation No.: 3895  
Group Art Unit: 3683  
Examiner: King, Bradley T.  
Title: **STAB JOINT COUPLING**  
Atty Docket: CTH-108

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

June 23, 2003

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AFTER FINAL AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed on April 22, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 13 of this paper.